(c) and (d) There is no centralised record of mining activity allowed in Protected Forests prior to the enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and continuing in terms of such a lease. However, since the enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, approvals for diversion of forest lands for mining have been given by the Central Government in respect of 95 cases. Statewise details are as under:

Andhra Pradesh	10
Bihar	6
Gujarat	4
Karnataka	5
Madhya Pradesh	36
Maharashtra	4
Orissa	13
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	7
Uttar Pradesh	5
Himachal Pradesh	1
A & N Islands	2
Total	95

(e) State Governments are expected to prevent or stop mining operations in protected forest areas if they are not being carried on in accordance with the law. There is, however, no centralised information about such closures effected by the State Governments.

(f) After the coming into force of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 no mining lease can be sanctioned by the State Governments in protected forests areas without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government. Decision to approve diversion of forest land for mining is taken after consideration of all the relevant information including likely effect of mining on environment, encluding on flora and fauna. Further, in certain specific areas of the Fragile Aravali Hills in Alwar district of Rajasthan and Gurgaon district of Haryana, as per notification dated 7-5-1992 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, prior permission of the Central Government has been stipulated before any mining is undertaken.

Mining Activities in the Area covered under Project Tiger

242. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prohibited without its prior permission, all mining activities in the areas covered under Project Tiger, the Sariska Sanctuary and National Park, notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard.

(c) what are the recommendations of the Justice M. L. Jain Committee in this regard; and

(d) when was the report submitted by the Committee and what action Government have taken on each of the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. This has been done by issuing a notification dated 7th May, 1992 under the provision of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee recommended that mining operations in all 215 mines falling completely within the areas declared as protected forests should be stopped forthwith. Further, 47 mines falling partly inside and partly outside the areas declared as protected forest should also be stopped forthwith to the extent they fell within the area declared as protected forest. The three other Members of the Committee differed from the Chairman and suggested that the Hon'ble Supreme Court be requested to consider the representation of the State Government wherein it was prayed that the area covered by the mines should be allowed to be excluded from the protected forest in lieu of which

the Government of Rajasthan will provide an equal extent of area for being included in the protected forest.

(d) The report is dated 28-9-92 and was submitted to the Supreme Court. The Government of India by an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court prayed for immediate closure of these mines.

Move to settle Bangladeshis in National Parks in Orissa

243. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reported move of Government of Orissa to settle Bangladeshis in national parks in the State;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check large scale deforestation that is likely to occur; and

(c) whether Orissa Government has sought Central Government's permission to cut down forests for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No such reports have been received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Botanical Survey of India

244. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes undertaken on pilot basis by the Botanical Survey and Zoological Survey of India as part of survey and conservation of natural resources State-wise; and

(b) the details of survey/programmes undertaken or proposed to be undertaken in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Botanical Survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India are mainly responsible for carrying out surveys and undertaking taxonomic studies on the flora and fauna of the country. This is an ongoing activity covering all the States, considering the tremendous richness, variety and spread of the flora and fauna found in the country.

(b) The Botanical Survey has conducted floristic studies in Parlakimedi, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Bolangir and Sambalpur Districts. The flora of Mahanadi estuary and Burhabanang estuary have been surveyed with particular reference to mangroves. The flora of the coastal area in Puri district has also been surveyed. An account of monocot plants in Orissa has been brought out.

The Zoological Survey of India has conducted detailed surveys on the faunistic diversity in the different districts of Orissa. The surveys on faunal resources in the Chilka lake and in the Rishikulya estuary have been carried out. Two volumes of the State Fauna of Orissa have been published by the Zoological Survey of India.

Similar work by both the Surveys will continue in the future for the purpose of covering the whole State comprehensively.

Action Plan for Pollution in Delhi

245. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has prepared an action plan for pollution control in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the targets fixed in the Action Plan; and

(d) by when, Delhi is proposed to be made pollution free under the Action Plan?